



Anthony J. Gausi

Yankee captain Derek Jeter returns the salute of adoring fans along the Canyon of Heroes yesterday.

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THANKS, YANKS!

GRAND CANYON

Millions mass at parade for Bomber bash

By TIM PERONE, DAVID K. LI
and DAREH GREGORIAN

They've still got it!

After a nine-year drought, millions of raucous Bomber fans found themselves back in familiar surroundings yesterday — lining the confetti-covered Canyon of Heroes to watch the World Series champion Yankees take their victory ride.

The estimated 2 million fans didn't show any celebration rust, forming a sea of blue and white as they climbed light poles and street signs and crammed Broadway to cheer on their beloved Bombers.

"It's been too long, hasn't it?" team captain Derek Jeter — a member of five championship squads — told the adoring crowd at City Hall.

"It feels good to be back."

The throngs that braved the chilly temperatures to show their pinstripe pride agreed.

"All is right with the world now that the Yankees are back on top," said plumber Rob Van Winkle, 27, of Staten Island.

"We should have one of these every year. It feels great to be out here today."

The team's 27th championship was a first for many of the team's younger fans — and many of the team's current players, including superstar third baseman Alex Rodriguez.

"We waited a long time for this," A-Rod said. "I've never seen so many people collected in one place. Excitement. It just seems like they were as hungry as we were. The fans really wanted this."

Several players videotaped the crowd from their floats, while many in the crowd were taping them.

Richie Kormanik, 32, of Staten Island, brought his sons Joseph, 12, and Richie, 10, to the parade. Richie spent most of the parade with his mouth agape as his heroes passed. "This is awesome," he said.

Joseph said, "I feel so good about missing school today. But I don't know what my teachers will think."

Missing from the party was team owner George Steinbrenner, who's been in poor health in recent years.

Manager Joe Girardi said The Boss called him before the parade and told him "the only thing greater than this celebration is doing it two years in a row. So he asked me to remind everyone, pitchers and catchers report in 96 days. Be ready to defend it."

That led to raucous cheers of "28! 28! 28!"

The day wasn't without blemishes.

The Staten Island Ferry terminal was briefly out of commission when mobs of parade-goers left at the same time and got into scuffles.

"It was elbow to elbow in there. You couldn't move," said Vinny Cerullo, 14, of Staten Island.

One cop, who asked not to be identified, said, "You had a million people trying to get on the ferry at the same time. People were in danger of being crushed. We had no choice but to pull people out of there. It could have gotten bad."

Additional reporting by Selim Algar, Carolyn Salazar and David Seifman

**More coverage in
Sports / P. 50, 62-67**



KEY TO VICTORY: Alex Rodriguez receives his key to the city from Mayor Bloomberg yesterday after throngs of fans (below) opened their hearts to the Yankees along the Broadway parade route.



THANKS, YANKS!



OF CELEBRATION

New York Post, Saturday, November 7, 2009

nypost.com



Steven Hirsch

NY LOVES A PARADE: An estimated 2 million diehard fans line the Canyon of Heroes yesterday as confetti showers down on the World Series champion Yankees.



THANKS, YANKS!

TOP OF THE WORLD

Mike and Joanna Rajendran had to come out for the parade — the Yankees won it all for them.

The Hartsdale couple were the first to be married at the new Yankee Stadium in August, exchanging their "I do's" as the Yanks crushed the Red Sox. Mike, a 34-year-old technology specialist, wore a blue and white pinstriped suit for the ceremony.

"My husband promised me the Yankees would win the World Series, and he said that would be my wedding gift. It was the best wedding gift he could ever give me. It was nice of the team to oblige. Being here, celebrating their win, is incredible. It's the icing on our Krispy Kreme wedding cake," said Joanna, 32, founder of Ourloveyoga.com. "It feels like the end of our fantasy that began when we exchanged our vows."

When No. 27, manager Joe Girardi, stepped onto his float with the franchise's 27th World Series trophy, fans were chanting, "28! 28! 28!"

Not everyone came to praise the Yankees — some came to trash their fallen foes, the Philadelphia Phillies. At one point before the parade started, someone tossed a Phillies cap into the middle of Broadway. A sanitation worker stomped on the hat — and was cheered like Derek Jeter.

A GRAND \$LAM FOR VENDORS

Bomber biz a real blast

By TIM PERONE and KEVIN FASICK

Hot-dog vendors, coffee-cart owners and bartenders scored huge pinstriped profits yesterday.

More than 2 million Yankee diehards flooded lower Manhattan, painting the town blue, white — and green.

"When a parade happens, business doubles!" said Mohammed Naibzada, 38, operating a coffee cart at Barclay and Church streets.

A typical weekday brings about \$200 in business to Naibzada's humble cart, but yesterday he hit a home run, grossing \$500.

"I was thinking about this during the World Series: I want a parade!" said Naibzada, appropriately wearing his Yankee cap.

Nearby, hot-dog seller Sam Mit reported \$350 in sales yesterday, a nice spike from his normal \$150.

And if Yankee fans weren't noshing or sipping, they were throwing back cold ones to toast the Bombers' first World Series title since 2000.

"We were full at 8 o'clock this morning!" boasted Arthur Gregory, general manager of Suspenders Bar and Restaurant on Broadway at Albany Street.

While a typical weekday brings \$5,000 to \$12,000 in

receipts, Suspenders rang up between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in sales before the end of the day yesterday.

As soon as the Yanks clinched the World Series, Gregory ordered 400 cases and 20 kegs of beer and eight kegs of Guinness to augment his inventory.

Even World Series programs flew off the shelves at Hasan Smith's newsstand on Broadway.

"These were selling for \$15 at the game, but I have them for \$10, and they've been selling real well," said Smith, 27.

"During the parade people were picking them up nonstop. It's been a great day!"

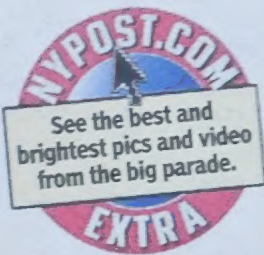
Frank Djemdgij, owner of Little Italy Pizza on Broadway, also got a piping-hot slice of Yankee action.

"Every parade, this place gets crazy," said Djemdgij, with lines going out the door. "It's great for business; it's great for New York; it's great for everybody."

Additional reporting by David K. Li and Selim Algar



HOIST ONE FOR NEW YORK: Derek Jeter lifts the World Series trophy yesterday at City Hall to celebrate the Yankees' 27th title and his fifth with the Bombers.



Getty Images

THANKS, YANKS!



A-Rod wipes slate clean

By CAROLYN SALAZAR
and DAVID K. LI

A-Rod's on a roll!

The often-stoic Yankee beamed with pride yesterday as he rode up the Canyon of Heroes, finally enjoying the cheers he's sought since arriving in The Bronx in 2004.

Wearing a fedora, sunglasses and a Yankee game jacket, A-Rod smiled with glee, even as he dodged a roll of celebratory toilet paper that flew by his head.

"He's not the player to hate anymore. He's the player to love," said Chris Alicea, 18, from Huntington, LI, at the parade for the World Series champs.

"With all the controversy surrounding A-Rod, the divorce, Madonna, look how he performed this season."

He's gone from A-Fraud to A-God, and all it took was a World Series title for fans to finally embrace the third baseman, who had taken a brunt of blame for recent playoff shortfalls.

Even before spring training, A-Rod was in full damage control, spinning an embarrassing Sports Illustrated report that he tested positive for steroids in 2003 with the Texas Rangers.

Then he missed this season's first 28 games with a hip injury.

When A-Rod received his key to the city yesterday, Yankee TV voice Michael Kay summed up his season: "He went from rock bottom to the top of the world."

A-Rod even hit a romantic home run this season, taking up with actress Kate Hudson. Yankee fans were quick



to credit the "Almost Famous" star for using her feminine wiles to help A-Rod find his postseason mojo.

"Alex's a great man, he's very comfortable with his own skin right now," said Yankee legend Reggie Jackson, who rode in an open car in the parade. "It's fabulous for me to watch him."

John Pastrana, 46, a construction worker from Old Bridge, NJ, admitted he blamed A-Rod for the Yankees' 2004 debacle, when the hated Boston Red Sox rallied from 3-0 playoff-game deficit to win the American League flag.

"Now all is forgiven," Pastrana said.

Additional reporting by Kevin Fasick and Tim Perone



ALEX PLYING HIGH: Sure-handed Alex Rodriguez moves in to make the catch on a toilet-paper roll at yesterday's parade in the Canyon of Heroes, where fans (above) thanked his girlfriend Kate Hudson for turning him from playoff choker to hero.

TOP OF THE WORLD

City Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Brooklyn) is now a full-fledged Godzilla fan. "He was very nice," she said after having her picture taken with Hideki Matsui in the Governor's Room at City Hall, where the team gathered before receiving keys to the city.

"He was very humble," James said of the World Series MVP. "He was in the corner by himself, no pomp and circumstance. I just said, 'Can I take a picture?' He said, 'Yes.' That was nice. Everyone else had handlers, not him."

Dance instructor Luigi Paulino, 20, of The Bronx, shouldn't add "actor" to his résumé. "I told my boss the usual, that I'm sick. She said 'have fun' because she knows what a diehard Yankee fan I am," he said. "I just had to come."

Moses Reyes, 54, of Washington Heights, who cheered on the Yanks at parades in 1977, 1978 and the 1990s, brought along a four-foot casket that had the words "Phillies RIP" on it. "The Yankees killed them, so we have to bury them," Reyes said.

Andrea Ippolito, 18, a freshman at Fairleigh Dickinson, missed two classes to go to the parade — and is praying her teachers aren't Post readers.

"I e-mailed my professors and told them I had a doctor's appointment in the city. I'm bringing them a fake doctor's note on Monday," she said.



THANKS, YANKS!

Adoring fans do Jeterian swoon

ANDREA PEYSER



IT'S good to be Derek Jeter.

No. It's great.

Two million of my fellow New Yorkers and I mobbed the downtown streets at dawn, cramming our bodies onto rickety trucks, climbing on scaffolding or claiming a grate, lobbing entire rolls of toilet paper giddily into the air. Screaming.

But there was just one man capable of transforming New Yorkers of all religions, races and orientations into this shivering, jabbering, drooling, hysterical mob:

Derek Jeter.

De-rek! De-rek! I was lucky enough, dumb enough or kooky enough yesterday to withstand early-morning temperatures that hovered around the digits of Paris Hilton's IQ to board the back of a truck after dawn. Upon arrival, I was asked whom I wanted to stalk. Don't you know?

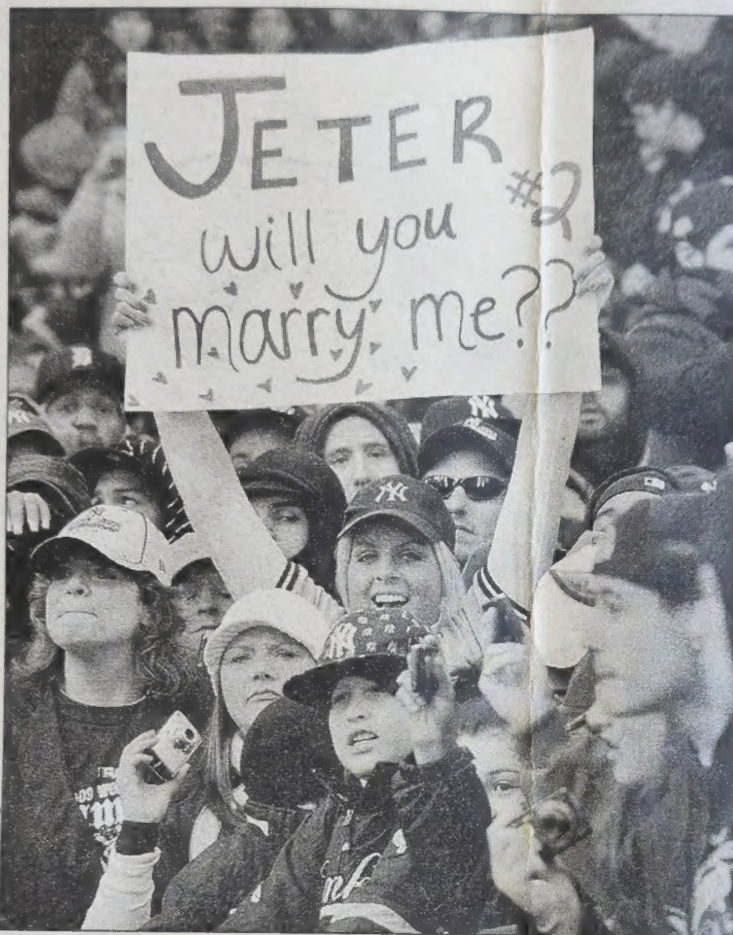
Then my man Derek boarded the float directly behind me. He was close enough to touch, but I studiously refrained.

In shades and a Yankee jacket, the man who's stopped the hearts of many a lady and more than a few men looked rested and chipper, sexy and humble, as he waved, it seemed, to all 4 million hands that reached out to him — pawing, pleading, begging for love. And he gave his love back.

Within seconds of Derek's arrival in the Canyon of Heroes, the amazing Yankees faded from view. The show became The Derek Jeter Hour.

De-rek Je-ter! Two million voices in unison chanted into the air. The overcaffeinated crowd was already excited as he came into view. As Derek rode by, I swear they started speaking in tongues.

A woman who stood before me began to hyperventilate. "Oh my God!" she shouted. "OH! MY! GOD!"



Kevin P. Coughlin

SWING AND MISSUS: This starry-eyed fan along the Canyon of Heroes yesterday tries to make Derek Jeter the ultimate catch.

She was ready to swoon. Fortunately, the bodies were lined up too thickly to let her crack her head.

"Will you marry me?" cried a female, I think it was a female, who risked life and liberty to run into the street with her arms outstretched.

"I want your babies!!" Easy now.

Just then, Derek winked and smiled in my direction. Or was I dreaming?

And then, Derek passed Ground Zero. The last time he did this slow drive past this place, in 2000, the Twin Towers still stood. He paused for a moment, as if to acknowledge that some things are bigger even

than baseball.

Derek carried the World Series trophy to a podium in front of City Hall, looking oddly embarrassed at the attention.

"I'm just a spokesman for the team," he said. It was not about him. "This is for the fans."

"Two years ago, I was standing in the streets of Baghdad. Now I'm standing in the streets of New York, celebrating the Yankees," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Tony Gonzalez, in uniform. He's been to hell and back, and it's Jeter who inspires him.

This one's for you, Derek. You deserve it.

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TOMORROW IN THE POST

Special Yankees tribute section

PLUS: Derek Jeter poster



Anthony J. Causi

THANKS, YANKS!



IT'S CONFETTI & MEATBALLS

Dolts toss secret biz documents

By CHUCK BENNETT
and SEUM ALGAR

Confetti-crazed Yankee fans in buildings along the parade route decided to use confidential financial documents in place of ticker tape — literally tossing common sense out the window.

While the Downtown Alliance distributed more than half a ton of recycled confetti to buildings, some office workers, in their enthusiasm, dumped entire files over the Canyon of Heroes.

"We're finding pay stubs. We're finding personal financial information. We found a balance sheet of someone's trust fund showing \$300,000 in stock," said Damian Salo, 29, an internal auditor attending the parade with friends.

"It's terrible. Here's the VP of a financial-services company; he makes over \$200,000," he added, holding a pay stub.

Some of the documents came from the Liberty Street financial firm A.L. Sarroff, including their client accounts, with Social Security numbers and detailed banking data.

"They're records that should have been shredded," said firm founder Alan Sarroff. "An overzealous em-



GOOD TEAM ON PAPER: Dana Pastorelli (far right) and friends toss confetti yesterday onto Broadway. Some overzealous office workers threw pay stubs and confidential banking documents instead of provided confetti.

ployee threw them out the window. He was reprimanded."

Real ticker tape hasn't been used since the 1960s, so fans made use of a law firm's invoices, memos written on Goldman Sachs letterhead and a collection of Bronx Supreme Court files from 2006.

The city estimated that at least 50

tons of refuse were left on city streets, but sanitation workers weren't complaining.

"I love it!" said sanitman John Freeman as he raked up confetti and toilet-paper rolls.

The Sanitation Department deployed 466 workers armed with 130 backpack blowers and 130 standard

brooms, along with 45 street cleaners and 20 collection trucks. There was no shortage of volunteers for duty, either.

"They are there to get ringside seats for the parade," said Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association President Harry Nespoli. With AP
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Best. Workday. Ever. For downtown crowd

Work ground to a halt up and down lower Broadway yesterday, as Big Apple working stiffs ditched their jobs to hurl confetti at the victorious Yankees.

"It's hard hearing the phones when you've got your head sticking out the window!" said secretary Maureen Byrne, 47, who had a prime fifth-floor view at Broadway and Vesey Street.

Dana Pastorelli, 11, said she knew what a lucky girl she was to tag along with dad to the office.

"I'm really happy because most of my friends are in school and they won't be

able to see the parade," said Dana, the daughter of SEIU Local 246 VP Charles Pastorelli.

"I like it up here because I'm not getting pushed around by the crowd."

As the office ran low on paper, Dana squirreled away a small pile of confetti at her feet. "I'm saving this for Derek Jeter," she said.

Douglas Montero
and Selim Algar



Mother of six Jackie Vesga left her Spotswood, NJ, house at 3 a.m. with five of her kids — Kira, 22; Alicia, 20; Quintin, 11; Johnny, 10; and Nelly, 9 — to make sure they got a prime spot. The family knew to camp out at the start of the parade route at Battery Place. "We've been coming since they were babies," she said of her kids.

Trinity Church Rector Jim Cooper had a heavenly view of the parade. He used a lift outside the church that had a congratulatory banner to watch the proceedings from about 20 feet in the air.

A footnote to baseball history: Rudy Giuliani was planning an unprecedented Midtown parade for the Yankees if they captured the Series after the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001.

"We couldn't have had it downtown here because of all the work being done," he said. "And right before we lost, I was planning to figure out how we would do the route."

Michelle Valerio of Brooklyn brought her kids Aaron, 12, Jonathan, 10, and Ashley, 8, to the parade — even though it meant no school.

"They've got Yankee fever. I've already signed their doctor's note," she said.

Compiled by Tim Perone,
Carolyn Salazar, David
Seifman, Kevin Fasick
and Selim Algar

Too bad Garden hoopla for visitors

TO HAVE to watch a Knicks game on the same day as the Yankees held a parade to celebrate their 27th World Series championship is a lot like being fed stale pizza after everyone else enjoyed steak.

At least Knicks fans had the chance to dream a little bit last night. LeBron James was in the building, and though reality suggests the odds are against him wearing a Knicks uniform next year, that thin ray of hope was enough to pump some energy in the fabled building.

A packed house, plenty of celebrities and even a few past and present Yankees were on hand for the nationally televised game between the Cavaliers and the Knicks. It almost felt like old times. Too bad all the commotion was about the visiting team.

"We have to get to the point where the Knicks are that energy and the Knicks are that attraction," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said before James scored 33 points to lead the Cavaliers to a 100-91 win. "We're not there yet, obviously. It's something we're working for and we'll eventually get there."

The Knicks (1-5) have a long way to go before becoming any kind of attraction. Of course, that could change next summer, when James and other big-time players become free agents. James said last night he will "look at all my options then." After the game he said money isn't a primary factor.

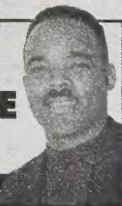
"It's all a matter of winning," James said.

If the Knicks are going to have any chance of signing James, they have to prove themselves worthy of his presence. To do that, they must make something of this season, something that will make James think the franchise is

headed in a positive direction with a chance of not only making the playoffs, but compete for a championship in the not so distant future. If there's any meaning to this year, that is the mission statement.

Clearly, James likes his situation in Cleveland. The Cavaliers reached the second round of the

GEORGE WILLIS



playoffs last year and signed Shaquille O'Neal this year.

"I feel like our team is set to where we can play deep into the playoffs and possibly

contend for an NBA championship," James said.

Right now, the Knicks don't even have a foundation. D'Antoni is high on second-year shooter Danilo Gallinari and sees promise in Wilson Chandler, but everyone else is filling space. "We've got to turn this around and get to where we can make this season positive and make it fun for everybody," D'Antoni said, before adding, "Just in case."

The Knicks seemed to use everything but their performance on the court to impress James during his only visit to the Garden this year. Several Yankees, including Alex Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira, Joba Chamberlain, and CC Sabathia, were introduced between quarters and stood at center court as the Garden bathed them in cheers.

James was greeted by loud applause during the introductions.

"You almost feel like a performer sitting on the stage and they're watching you perform," he said. "It's hard not to feel good coming into this building."

Lights, cameras, celebrities ... Right now the Knicks can give James everything but a contender.

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YOUR AVERAGE FANS: CC Sabathia (right) and Alex Rodriguez watch the Knicks fall to the Cavaliers last night, 100-91. "This is the stage he wants to play on and I think he'll be great here," said Sabathia, who played in Cleveland and is friends with LeBron James

AP

CC 'trying hard' to recruit James

By MARK HALE

CC Sabathia told The Post last night that he absolutely would like to see his friend LeBron James in New York, and said he would tell the future free agent that New York is a one-of-a-kind city to play in.

Sabathia, the Yankees ace and former Cleveland Indians star, was honored with five of his Yankees teammates at a star-studded Knicks-Cavaliers game at Madison Square Garden. Sabathia just finished the first year of his seven-year, \$161 million contract with the Yanks.

"He's seen both sides of the fence, being in Cleveland and now in New York," James said before the game.

And Sabathia would like to see James in his new town.

"No doubt. This is it. This is the stage he wants to play on," Sabathia said. "And I think he'll be great here."

Asked what he would tell

James about what it's like to play in New York, Sabathia gushed, "There's nothing like winning here. There's nothing like playing here. The fans and just the whole experience. There's nothing you can compare it to. And I'm just happy that I made the right decision."

There would seem to be two differences between Sabathia's free agency and James' — there's no salary cap in baseball, so the Yankees could simply outbid every other team for Sabathia, but the Knicks can't just hand James a blank check; and while Sabathia hails from California, he wasn't playing for a California team, yet James has spent his whole life in Ohio, going to high school in Akron, then playing with the Cavs in Cleveland.

Sabathia said he wasn't sure if James will come here.

"I'm trying. I'm trying hard," he said. "By doing these interviews and doing these different things, I'm trying hard."

James is a big Yankees fan, and before the game he said he was in awe of, and grateful to, the Yankees who were expected to attend. Those who came were Sabathia, Alex Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira, Robinson Cano, Joba Chamberlain and Melky Cabrera, all of whom were introduced to the crowd to a standing ovation after the first quarter.

"The fact that they would take time out of their schedule," James said, "especially with what they just accomplished, to come see a basketball game, come see us play, come see the Knicks play, it's humbling for me as an individual and it's humbling for our team that you would come out and support us."

James said he didn't see the Yankees' parade because he was sleeping.

"I heard it was great," James said. "Congratulations to the Yankees."

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NEW PERSONALITIES

Offseason moves pay big dividends

THE Yankees regained what matters most to their organization when they won their 27th title.

And just to show their single-mindedness to that cause, manager Joe Girardi already had decided to switch from No. 27 to 28 for 2010, symbolically revealing the next quest before a single flatbed had navigated up the Canyon of Heroes.

But the Yankees got something else vital back this year that is harder to explain. It can be called mystique and aura, or mojo, or chemistry. Difficult to define, it was easy to see this year, especially because of its absence in recent years.

Now those who believe in cold, hard numbers will pooh-pooh such elements, and simply point to the overwhelming talent purchased last offseason as the reason for another championship. But the talent has been there in recent years, and the group fell short of confetti in lower Manhattan.

"A lot of things were going on [in the clubhouse] that were not good, a lot of separation," general manager Brian Cashman said. "A lot of players came here and thought it was going to be one thing, and it wasn't what they thought. We worked on a lot of different levels to clean it up."

Much of the renovation was about the new personalities: CC Sabathia's affability, Mark Teixeira's diligence, Nick Swisher's zaniness and A.J. Burnett's surprising amity.

But this also was about what wasn't there. Despite the huge dollars spent, the mercenary element vanished. The clubhouse was not polluted by the dour natures of a Kevin Brown or Randy Johnson or the misgivings of a Carl Pavano. Clubhouse life with the Yankees had become, if not miserable, certainly not attractive, and detracted from the overall group's loyalty to one another and willingness to sacrifice for one another.

And, for these Yankees, Girardi mattered. Look at it this way, Swisher does not make it to May as a Yankee if Joe Torre is still here.

Torre was loyal to the core champions and the staid way in which they conducted themselves. And why shouldn't he have been? That core brought him fame and wealth, and delivered consistent winning.



Joel Sherman

But a caste system had developed in the clubhouse between those who had won for Torre and those who had not. That partition brought discomfort to the room, particularly because Alex Rodriguez so represented the have-nots and Derek Jeter symbolized the haves.

Girardi did not have that same tether to the past, even if he had played with the championship core. He did not actively de-emphasize the mainstays as much as create a forum in which new players did not have to walk on dynastic egg shells. Sabathia and Burnett still could look to Andy Pettitte for been-there-done-that wisdom and Jeter could still be the face of the franchise, but that did not preclude others from being seen and heard.

Girardi also made an important decision in his second year to foster unity and fraternity. He famously called off a spring training practice to host a pool tournament and he urged less crew-cut behavior by sanctioning louder music, the passing around of a gaudy championship belt and Burnett's pie delivery system.

Also, hitting rock bottom after steroid revelations and right hip surgery became a blessing for A-Rod and the team. He stopped being a human black hole, sucking all clubhouse life through his staggering combo of ego and insecurity. Instead, he recommitted to the joys of playing and mixing in with a team.

These Yankees had fun and supported each other. They made this a good place to play again beyond the large paycheck, a word that will spread as it did in the best of the Torre years. For brevity let's call it mystique and aura, and recognize that it traveled up the Canyon of Heroes again yesterday, as well.

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FOCUSED GROUP: The additions of ace CC Sabathia (above), pie maker A.J. Burnett (inset, left) and an often-zany Nick Swisher (inset, right) helped bring the Yankees together for their title run this season.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg (Sabathia), Getty Images (Swisher), Getty Images (Burnett)



THANKS, YANKS!



REVIVE MOJO

'Incredible' day for prized duo

By BART HUBBUCH

CC Sabathia and Mark Teixeira never had been part of anything like this.

Two of the Yankees' prized additions — and key forces in their 27th world championship — had just seen confetti rain down on the Canyon of Heroes on TV before yesterday.

Sabathia and Teixeira, who shared the same float during the morning celebration down Broadway, could be excused for their awe at the sight of 2 million mostly pinstriped fans chanting their names and screaming deliriously despite the windy chill.

After all, they didn't have any baseball parades in Cleveland, Milwaukee, Arlington, Atlanta or Anaheim — the previous combined major-league stops for Sabathia and Teixeira before they found championship gold this season in The Bronx.

"You guys are amazing!" Teixeira screamed at the crowd as the decorated float began its journey to City Hall near Wall Street and his wife, Leigh, snapped pictures.

Teixeira then held up a white cardboard banner with "World Champions" in blue and chanted "Let's go, Yankees!" along with the throngs packed tightly on the sidewalks.

Teixeira was reacting to the thousands of fans at the start of the parade breaking into a chant of "Mark Teix-eir-a!" as soon as they could make out that he was in the float alongside Sabathia.

"Derek told me to be ready for the most incredible parade that I've ever seen in my life, and I'm definitely ready for it," Teixeira had said as he added into the float near Coney Island.



'TEX' MESSAGE: Mark Teixeira waves to the fans during the Yankees' parade down the Canyon of Heroes in celebration of the team's World Series title yesterday. Reuters

The Sabathia-Teixeira float didn't have the added entertainment star power of floats occupied by Alex Rodriguez (rap star Jay-Z) and Derek Jeter (actress Minka Kelly), but the fans didn't seem to mind.

"CC! CC!" came the screams as Sabathia, minus the flat-brimmed cap pulled slightly sideways that is his trademark on the diamond, waved and smiled widely while accompanied by his family.

"Wow, man," Sabathia said, shaking his head as he basked in the flying confetti, toilet-paper rolls

and Silly String that accompanied the festivities.

Sabathia appeared to get slightly more of the adulation than Teixeira, which was understandable after he went 4-1 with a 1.98 ERA in five postseason starts in his Yankees debut.

That followed a terrific regular season in which Sabathia firmly asserted himself as the Bombers' ace, going 19-8 with a 3.37 ERA in 34 starts.

Teixeira probably will want to remember the World Series ring and yesterday's parade more than

his own performance in the Fall Classic, an effort that saw the All-Star first baseman hit just .136 with eight strikeouts in the six games against Philadelphia.

But mention of Teixeira's meager World Series performance and Sabathia's loss in Game 1 to the Phillies were nowhere to be found in downtown yesterday.

Only cheers.

"This is what you play for," Sabathia said. "There's never been anything like this for me."

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TOMORROW IN THE POST

Special Yankees tribute section

PLUS: Derek Jeter poster





THANKS, YANKS!

BASKING IN A NEW LIGHT



Alex's transformation from pariah to hero complete

FOR ONE day in his life, there were no shades of Alex Rodriguez, postseason hero, though he put a put on a pair for yesterday's parade.

A guy who has splattered himself on the floor of more canyons than Wile E. Coyote took a glorious ride up this one, typically without letting anyone see the whites of his eyes.

If Rodriguez had feared pulling a Dick Vermeil, nobody would have begrudged him. If A-Rod had wanted to shield himself from the glare of his own brilliance, it would have been for the first time in his life. If he just wanted to show how cool it was to be Alex Rodriguez on a day it certainly was, he fully played the part.

There he was, in Yankees jacket and a fedora, standing next to Jay-Z by the entrance to the Bowling Green Subway Station, a \$27 million-



a-year man waiting to board his float as if it was his ship come in at last. There he went up Broadway, no Kate Hudson at his side, his main squeeze for the morning being one of the least recognizable Yankees, Francisco Cervelli, probably the way the third baseman liked it.

"A-Rod! A Rod!" screeched crowds 30 deep. In response, his head bobbed up and down as if he was timing a Tim Wakefield pitch. A-Rod's kind of crowd, particularly with Jose Canseco not in it.

Rodriguez had delivered at long last and delivered himself in the process. Free from those postured grimaces following another postseason

three-hopper to the short-stop, free at last from the fear of going to his grave the biggest failure ever to ever to break practically every career record in the book.

At Rector Street, he was waving, as if good bye to all that. By Morris, both arms were upraised, A-Rod glancing up 15 stories at people leaning out windows. And none of them were holding up pictures of Madonna or friends he flew to Toronto.

At Wall Street, he leaned over to talk to his daughter Natasha. At Fulton Street, he reached out to catch a streamer but as it sailed too far from his reach, retracted his arm more quickly than he had ever denied anything.

He flinched at a roll of toilet paper, his only awkwardness of the day. Every shredded piece of paper landing on his head may as well have come from the last copy of the secret list of

the 104 nabbed in the survey testing.

You hardly could hear yourself think, which would have come in handy in 2006 against Detroit. But on a day even the media transports were cheered, A-Rod wasn't batting eighth any longer in these people's lineup.

When, at Cedar Street, he chose not to opt out, the cheering somehow got louder, crowds 20-30 deep even on the cross streets wanting just a glimpse of him, no questions asked about whether the voters should forgive him his Hall of Fame chances. The master of ceremonies at City Hall were John Sterling, Michael Kay and Suzyn Waldman, not Katie Couric. A.J. Burnett playfully stole A-Rod's Fedora off his head to go collect the pitcher's medal from the mayor, returning it respectfully without whipped cream.

At the side of the stand,

Canseco has fighting words for Rodriguez

Former baseball player and current celebrity boxer Jose Canseco said he would like to fight Yankees star Alex Rodriguez.

Speaking Thursday at a weigh-in for his upcoming fight in Massachusetts, Canseco was asked which current player he most would like to box?

His response: "Who I would love to fight the most, if I could pick a baseball player? Alex Rodriguez, get your [butt] in the ring, I'll beat you to a pulp. That lying little idiot, I'd like to get him in the ring."

Canseco has written two books on steroid use in baseball. At first his claims were dismissed, but many of them were proven to be correct. In "Vindicated," released in 2008, he said he introduced Rodriguez to a trainer who might have supplied him with steroids.

Selena Roberts was not waiting for Rodriguez with new information. Perfect end to a perfect day.

For six years in New York,

there has been dust settling around him, even as he rounded the bases. Yesterday, that turned to confetti.

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THANKS, YANKS!

A-Rod caps rocky year in, um, style

By BRIAN COSTELLO

A season that began with an embarrassing press conference for Alex Rodriguez ended with a triumphant trip up Broadway.

Rodriguez captured his first championship, and in the process answered all the questions about his postseason capabilities, batting .365 and driving in 18 runs in 13 games. The only thing his critics could rip him for yesterday was the black fedora he wore.

"For me, it's an opportunity to reflect on the year '09, which we all know didn't start very well for me," Rodriguez said.

Spring training began with a Sports Illustrated report that Rodriguez used steroids in 2003. He followed that with a public admission. Hip surgery delayed the start of his regular season, but when he returned to the field, fans saw a different Rodriguez. He appeared relaxed and limited his time with the press, concentrating on baseball.

"The goal was to come in and simplify things this year, and I've done that," Rodriguez said. "I think that's a format that worked this year and will work in the future. Obviously, winning is the only goal. I've never experienced such an amazing feeling."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi listed several players he was especially happy for, and his third baseman was at the top of that list.

"I think of guys like Alex because all that was written about his struggles at times and how great he was for us in these playoffs," Girardi said.

Rodriguez clicked with Girardi this season. He called the manager the MVP of the team yesterday.

The 34-year-old slugger said it will probably take a little while for it to sink in that he actually won a championship. He said the loss in 2004 to the Red Sox made this feeling sweeter. The memory of losing the ALCS after being up 3-0 was something that was always in the back of his mind.

"People were saying: 'Are you comfortable against Minnesota or Anaheim?' And when you have [2004] in your memory bank — we have five or six guys on this team from that year — you definitely don't get too comfortable until the last 27th out," he said. "I did not believe we won until we collected the last out."

United we stand

HANGIN' IN THERE: A fan climbs up atop a street sign for a better view of yesterday's Yankees victory parade.

Kevin P. Coughlin



Yanks bring city together in lovefest

THESE are the best days of all, and only partly because they happen in the immediate afterglow of triumph, a championship in the bank and satisfaction sating every ounce of your sporting soul. That part of a parade day is nice, sure.

But this is the better part:

For the couple of hours that it takes the floats and the flatbeds and the bands to march from Battery Place to City Hall, for that piece of morning and chunk of afternoon when the players and the politicians mingle and chatter and exchange pleasantries and keys to the city, the most famous and most expensive baseball team in the world becomes a public trust, a penny stock.

The Yankees belong to the people then, and the people belong to the Yankees, 2 million shareholders lining the sidewalks, everyone wearing the same blue vestments, the same pinstriped cassocks, waving the same dark-blue flag, white interlocked "NY" on the front.

Three days after Election Day, it is the most democratic day of all, whether you are a bartender from Bensonhurst, a dentist from

Demarest or a landscaper from Larchmont. Rich and poor and everywhere in between; young and old and everyone in the middle; everyone is welcome. Everyone is equal. Everyone gets the same small square of pavement to call home.

And everyone is a Yankee.

"It's been too long, hasn't it?" Derek Jeter asked, knowing he would shake down a roar that rattled the heavens, starting with the select crowd at City Hall, extending beyond the gates to the masses who had lined the Canyon of Heroes, amplified by the folks who had work or school yesterday, who couldn't make it to Lower Manhattan in person but were there in spirit.

"It feels good to be back," Jeter said. "I forgot how great this is. I talked last year, when we closed the old stadium, about bringing new memories across the street, and you guys definitely did not disappoint."

Added Hal Steinbrenner:

"This one is for you."

It wasn't easy being a Yankees fan in this season, in this year, when so many people are hurting, when so many jobs have been lost, when so much money

that might otherwise have gone to buy Yankees tickets had to be re-allocated to more pressing commitments like rent,

tuition and paying down credit-card debt.

It wasn't always easy to be a working-class fan, to look at the stratospheric costs of Yankees tickets, to know that it might be some time before you ever get a good look inside the beautiful new yard. That was a big story for so long, and remains that way to be truthful, because never has the gulf between have and have-not seemed greater and graver than the caste system inside modern ballparks. Yankee Stadium isn't alone in that. Ask a Giants fan. Ask a Mets fan. Ask a Knicks fan.

But the Yankees fan yester-

day received the sublime gift that Giants fans got 20 months and one day earlier: a chance to look their idols and their heroes in the eye, a chance to share a championship on equal terms and equal footing. A chance for 2 million anonymous Yankees and 25 famous ones to merge in magnificent and munificent wonder, to shake each other's hands and to share each other's triumph.

"No matter where you go," Mayor Bloomberg said at City Hall, "the city will always welcome you back with open arms."

Then he distributed keys to the players, to the coaches, to the owners and the announcers and the support people who made it all so, made it all happen. It was a nice gesture, but the mayor already had been beaten to the punch. For the Yankees already had been given the keys to the people's collective heart, 2 million strong. And those arms contain a firm embrace that never fades.

"This team," manager Joe Girardi said, "took on the pulse of the city of New York."

The city, in turn, gave the team its heart. It's a fair trade.

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Mike Vaccaro



THANKS, YANKS!



FAN-DEMONIUM

2 million cheer champions up the Canyon



By BRIAN COSTELLO

The 2009 Yankees made one last ride together — this time up the Canyon of Heroes.

After 177 games, 114 victories, nine months and one world title, the Yankees sat together on a stage at City Hall Plaza yesterday celebrating a championship, but also realizing this would be their last time together as a team.

"I think I probably think about it more than a lot of other guys because I know how teams change quite a bit during the offseason,"

BOMBER BOOSTERS:

Yankees fans (above) cheer as the world champions, led by Captain Derek Jeter (left), paraded up the Canyon of Heroes in lower Manhattan yesterday for the first time in nine years.

UPI (Jeter); Neil Miller (fans)

said Johnny Damon, who will soon become a free agent. "This team was good enough to win the whole thing and that's the memory I'm always going to take with me. We're champions. You can't take that away. It's going to be that way for history."

Signs along the parade route implored the Yankees to bring back free agents Damon, Hideki Matsui and Andy Pettitte. Those three enter the winter unsure of their futures with the team, but each played an important role in the World Series for the Yankees. Damon had the double steal in Game 4 that changed the Series. Matsui was the MVP, clubbing six RBIs in Game 6. And Pettitte won two games, including the clincher.

"That's just the reality of our game," Alex Rodriguez said. "You hope, obviously, as many guys come back as possible. That's why you have to savor things. I've done that."

The Yankees all did that on their way up Broadway to receive the keys to the city from Mayor Bloomberg. For the first time in nine years, the Bronx Bombers were showered with confetti, toilet paper and various flying objects on a cold, autumn day.

Pettitte, Mariano Rivera, Jorge Posada and Derek Jeter have been through this before. But a nine-year drought made some of them forget just how incredible a

sea of Yankees fans — 2,000,000 strong — taking over downtown Manhattan looks.

"This is what makes it all worthwhile — all the hard work, the 200 and something games," Jeter said. "It shows how much support we have."

Jeter, who rode on a float with girlfriend Minka Kelly, said he tried to connect with as many fans as possible.

"You feel like the president, waving," Jeter said. "You wish you could thank every single fan individually, but you can't. I know they know we appreciate it."

The players took in the sights of people leaning out windows and those lined up on the streets. Several players mentioned one sign a fan held up featuring Matsui holding a baby with Pedro Martinez's face.

"A magical day," Yankees general managing partner Hal Steinbrenner said. "New York just has the best fans in the world, period."

The Yankees were well represented on stage from Jeter to Jay-Z, but one notable absence was George Steinbrenner.

The 79-year-old team owner has not been in good health for several years and stayed home in Tampa, Fla., to watch on TV.

"You can't help but to think about The Boss," Jeter said. "We wouldn't have this stadium, we wouldn't have this team without him. That's just the bottom line. I'm happy we were able to win one for him."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said he spoke with George Steinbrenner before the ceremony at City Hall.

"He told me this morning ... the only thing greater than this celebration is doing it two years in a row," Girardi told the crowd. "So he asked me to remind everyone, pitchers and catchers report in 96 days. Be ready to defend it."

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THANKS, YANKS!

HAILS 'HEROES'

ONE PARADE is not nearly enough.

There should be a parade next year and the year after that, too. A Yankees victory parade should become as common as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, with the talent they have and their ability to outspend the competition.

Money doesn't guarantee success (look at the Mets), but it sure beats the alternative. To the Yankees' credit, they all now understand what it takes to be a champion. They know it takes playing as a team to win, and they know what the Summer Game is all about in October and November.



Kevin Kernan

The home clubhouse at Yankee Stadium was a pretty quiet place yesterday. The only sign of the World Series celebration that came after their Game 6 triumph were champagne bottles stashed in some of the lockers.

All the nameplates had been removed, leaving a stainless steel bracket above each locker, kind of fitting for a team that was once known as U.S. Steel. A.J. Burnett, Mr. Pie in the Face, was out of energy. When approached by a reporter he said, "Talk to you in 95 days, sir."

In a strange way, that was the perfect comment for the state of these world champion Yankees. Yesterday was a day for fans, players and Yankees officials to celebrate: Yes the Yankees won the World Series again, but this must be the start of something big, not the end of a long, hard road.

So much is being made of the Yankees' 27th world championship, but the reality is the Yankees have only two championships since 2000, despite outspending the competition by a wide margin. The Red Sox have won two since 2004.

Hey, Yanks: Make this parade an annual event



HAPPY DAY: Yankees Jerry Hairston Jr. (left), Nick Swisher and Johnny Damon got to parade up the Canyon of Heroes for the first time yesterday, but Kevin Kernan says the team can't be satisfied with just winning the World Series this year — they must make it a yearly goal.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

I hate to disagree with Post guest columnist David Wells, but winning championships in 2000 and 2009, despite the huge financial advantage over the Red Sox and a Godzilla advantage over everyone else, does not make you the Team of the Decade.

It doesn't even make the Yankees the AL East's Team of the Decade.

At best, the Yankees are tied with the Red Sox for that honor. As championships go, this was an excellent start, a step in the right direction, but the competition was weak throughout the postseason, and considering that the Yankees have much of the same cast returning next year, they need to win another championship and then another to truly stand out to be that dynasty.

The fact the Red Sox were swept away in the first

round shows you how far they have fallen.

The 1949-53 Yankees of Joe DiMaggio and Yogi Berra won five straight World Series. Back then there was no amateur draft, so the Yankees could stockpile young stars, something they can't do today. But any time you can go out and pick up CC Sabathia, Mark Teixeira and Burnett on the free agent market, that's a huge advantage.

Don't get me wrong, these Yankees accomplished great things, but this should be the start of greatness. There's the \$1.5 billion ballpark that is a huge advantage because the Yankees can afford to sign the big hitters. Big hitters love small ballparks.

These Yankees must do something great like the 1927 Yankees, who won the pennant by 19 games over the Philadelphia A's — a team that had Hall of Famers ev-

erywhere, including Ty Cobb, Jimmie Foxx and Lefty Grove — and then swept the Pirates. That's a statement.

Alex Rodriguez is in his prime; Derek Jeter says he's not old. So go out and win again and maybe next year in the World Series the Yankees will face a team with more than one legit starter and a manager who might want to take out a completely gassed Pedro Martinez with two outs, the bases loaded and Hideki Matsui (who must be re-signed) at the plate.

Jeter's earlier championship Yankees won four times in five years. These Yankees can accomplish similar greatness. Winning this championship was a moment of triumph, but only a moment. The Yankees must pull this off again next season.

One parade is not nearly enough.

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Matsui stays mum on plans for future

By MIKE PUMA

Hideki Matsui appears to be in full negotiating mode already.

On the same day he received some of the loudest cheers in the Canyon of Heroes for his contributions as the World Series MVP, Matsui wouldn't even say yesterday if he wants to return to the Yankees next season.

"I don't have any thoughts right now," Matsui said outside the home clubhouse at Yankee Stadium, referring to his 2010 preference.

There has been some thought that Matsui, who can become a free agent, will return to play in his native Japan if the Yankees don't make him a competitive offer. But when asked about playing for another major league team, Matsui said anything is possible.

Those possibilities include shedding his full-time designated hitter label — just over a year removed from his latest knee surgery — and returning to play the outfield somewhere.

"That is going to be a challenge that I'm going to have to work on during the offseason, regardless of if I could be back in the outfield or not," Matsui said. "That's something I'm going to be working on — trying to get back to the outfield and seeing if I'm capable."

The 35-year-old Matsui just completed a four-year deal worth \$52 million. The Yankees seem intent on getting younger and becoming more flexible with the DH spot,

but are also still intrigued by Matsui's bat, after he hit .274 with 28 homers and 90 RBIs in 2009. Against the Phillies in the World Series, he hit .615 with three homers and eight RBIs even though he did not start the three games in Philadelphia, where the DH was not used.

The Yankees could make Matsui a one-year offer, but he likely will have American League suitors willing to make at least a two-year commitment.

Yesterday he was recognized mostly for his contributions in Game 6 of the World Series, when he tied a single-game Series record with six RBIs.

"The way the fans cheered and supported me today, that was something completely beyond my imagination," Matsui said. "It was very emotional and I was very touched by how they supported me."

"This whole experience today was just incredible. I don't think I would ever forget about this."

If Matsui has played his last game for the Yankees, he leaves knowing he accomplished his goal.

"The reason why I joined the Yankees was to become world champions," said Matsui, who arrived before the 2003 season. "That was the ultimate goal, so had I not won it as a member of the Yankees, it would have been very disappointing."

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CAVS TRIP KNICKS; CITY STUMPS FOR LeBRON

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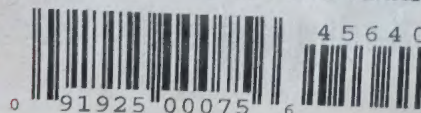
A-GOD!

Alex basks in glory as
millions attend parade

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It had been nine years since the Bronx Bombers took the ride up the Canyon of Heroes, and yesterday's downtown parade celebrating a World Series championship was the first for Alex Rodriguez (center), who enjoyed the triumphant journey in front of 2 million devoted Yankees fans.

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